

Serial No.: 09/752,198

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-28, 30-35, and 37-51 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7-21, 23-28, 30-35, and 46-51 presently stand rejected. Claims 22 and 45 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent format. By this amendment, claims 1 and 37 have been amended. Claims 6, 21-36 and 44-51 have been canceled.

As set forth in the amendments above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 21 and 22, which have now been canceled. Similarly, claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 44 and 45, which have now been canceled. Since dependent claims 22 and 45 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent format, independent claims 1 and 37 should now be allowable as they contain the subject matter of claims 22 and 45 and the intervening dependent claims. The claims depending from independent claims 1 and 37 should also now be allowable.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above amendments and remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

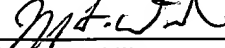
FEE DUE

A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 is enclosed for the fee due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426 to avoid the unintentional abandonment of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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